United Nations A/58/322

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 August 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Item 78 of the provisional agenda*
Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

Letter dated 12 August 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania on 6 August 2003, concerning the adoption by the Parliament of the Law on the adhesion to amended article 1, to the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), as amended in Geneva on 3 May 1996, and to the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV), adopted in Vienna on 13 October 1995, of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued and circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 78 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Mihnea **Motoc**
Ambassador

* A/58/150.

03-48080 (E) 040903

Annex to the letter dated 12 August 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Parliament of Romania adopted on 27 June 2003 Law No. 287 on the adhesion to article 1, as amended in Geneva on 21 December 2001, to the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), as amended in Geneva on 3 May 1996, and to the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV), adopted in Vienna on 13 October 1995, of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

The Law was promulgated by Presidential Decree No. 416.

- Amended article 1 of the Convention stipulates the extension of the scope of application of the Convention and its Protocols to also cover non-international armed conflicts.
- Protocol II, as amended in 1996, provides for the extension of the scope of application to non-international armed conflicts and differentiates explicitly the restrictions and interdictions according to the type of weapon (mines, booby traps, other devices). At the same time, Amended Protocol II prohibits the use of mines, booby traps or other devices against the civilian population, and establishes norms on mines detectability, self-destruction, self-neutralization and self-deactivation.
- Protocol IV on blinding laser weapons is one of the first international legal instruments prohibiting a class of weapons that was still in its conceptual stage, before becoming part of armed forces' equipment.

The Romanian authorities have initiated the procedure for the elaboration of the instruments of adhesion, to be deposited with the Secretary-General.

Romania's adhesion to the above-mentioned documents is part of the demarches aimed at universalization of the Convention and represents an active contribution to the strengthening of the norms of international humanitarian law.

By adhering to Amended Protocol II, Romania has fulfilled the political commitment undertaken in the preamble of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention), to which Romania has been a State party since 2001.

6 August 2003